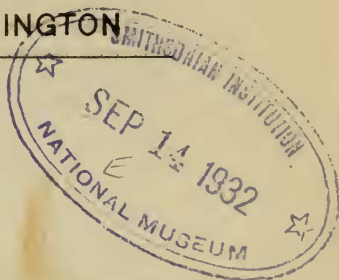


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



GENERAL NOTES.

NEW NAMES FOR MAMMALS PROPOSED BY BOROWSKI IN
1780 AND 1781.

The first and second volumes of "Gemeinnützige Naturgeschichte des Thierreichs," published at Berlin and Stralsund in 1780 and 1781, respectively, by Georg Heinrich Borowski, contain a number of mammalian names entitled to recognition which have been overlooked by taxonomists. The first volume of this work consists of four parts and the second volume of two parts, each of these parts being separately paged. Authorities are cited for the names used and references to other sources of information are likewise given. In the following instances, Borowski's names have priority over any subsequent use of the same specific name.

T[alpa] flavescens Borowski, 1780, vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 88 is based in part upon "La Taupe de Virginie" of Brisson, 1762, *Regnum Animale*, Leyden, p. 205, and in part upon the yellow variety of the American mole described by Pennant, 1771, *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, p. 312. This name is equivalent in part if not entirely to *Scalopus aquaticus aquaticus* (Linnaeus).

Erinaceus tendrac Borowski, 1780, vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 98. The specific name *tendrac* can not be used again in the genus *Erinaceus*, since mention is made of specific characters in the accompanying diagnosis, although it does not seem possible to identify the animal. The habitat of this species is given as the East Indies and Madagascar.

Cervus montanus Borowski, 1780, vol. 1, pt. 3, p. 71. This name is accompanied by a valid description of a mountain form of some deer belonging to the *Cervus elaphus* group. The specific name *montanus* can not be employed again for any member of the genus *Cervus*, although it does not seem possible to identify the animal. The habitat of this deer is not mentioned in the text.

Cervus grönlandicus Borowski, 1780, vol. 1, pt. 3, p. 72 is based upon *Cervus groenlandicus* Brisson, 1762, *Regnum Animale*, Leyden, p. 60. Greenland is the type locality. The species should therefore stand as *Rangifer grönlandicus* (Borowski).

Balaena glacialis Borowski, 1781, vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 18. Borowski is the first to apply this specific name to the nordkaper or right whale. He states that *Balaena glacialis* is found not only off North Cape, Norway, but also in the southern Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Africa and near the Antillean

islands. The correct citation for the name of the Atlantic right whale will therefore be *Eubalaena glacialis* (Borowski).

Balaena novae angliae Borowski, 1781, vol. 2, pt. 1, p. 21 antedates *B[alaena] nodosa* Bonnaterre, 1789, Tabl. Encyclop. et Méthod. Règles Nature, Cétologie, p. 5. The diagnosis accompanying this generally overlooked name is essentially the same as that given by Brisson for his *Balaena novae angliae*, 1762, Regnum Animale, Leyden, p. 221. Since Brisson was not a binomial author, specific names proposed by him have no standing under the international code. Borowski, however, applies names in a binomial manner and gives a perfectly valid diagnosis to the same whale in the following words:

"Der Pflokfisch. La Baleine de la nouvelle Angleterre. The Humpback-Whale. Bunch-Whale. Hat an der Stelle, wo der Finnfisch seine Flosse trägt einen Höker, wie ein Pflok gestaltet, der hinten weg steht. Derselbe hat 1 Fuss in der Höhe und die Dicke eines Mannskopfs. Seine Brustflossen sitzen beinahe in der Mitte des Leibes unter dem Bauch und sind 18 Schuh lang. Seine Leibeslänge muss daher ansehnlich sein. Sein Aufenthalt ist an den Küsten von Neuengland. Seine Baarten sind besser als des Finnfisches und das Spek hat mit diesem viel Aehnlichkeit."

It is clear that Borowski's name refers to the same animal as that described by Bonnaterre, which should, therefore, be known as *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski). The type locality is likewise New England.

—Remington Kellogg.

THE STATUS OF THE COSTA RICAN RED BAT.

The red bat of Costa Rica was described as *Atalapha frantzii* by Peters (Monatsber. K. Preuss. Akad. Wissensch., Berlin, Jahre 1870, p. 908, 1871). It was listed as *Atalapha noveboracensis* var. *a* (*Atalapha frantzii*) by Dobson (Catal. Chiroptera, Brit. Mus., 1878, p. 271). Under *Atalapha noveboracensis* this bat was recorded by Alston (Biol. Cent. Amer., 1879, p. 22) from Colobre, Panama. In the absence of specimens for examination Miller, in revising the North American Vespertilionidae (North American Fauna No. 13, p. 111, Oct. 16, 1897), placed *Atalapha frantzii* Peters in the synonymy of *Lasiurus borealis mexicanus* (Saussure) of Mexico.

Three specimens of red bat from Boquete, Chiriqui, forming part of a general collection of mammals from western Panama, were submitted to me for identification by the late Mr. Oldfield Thomas. These were regarded as near typical *frantzii* and proved to differ from *L. b. mexicanus* as follows: Size smaller, forearm about 37 (forearm 41 in a specimen of *mexicanus* from Peñuela, near Cordoba, Vera Cruz); upper parts, including hairy portion of interfemoral membranes, deeper rufescent or chestnut, the back more heavily overlaid with this color; under parts washed with darker buff, the basal tone blackish, instead of plumbeous; skull closely resembling that of *mexicanus*, but distinctly smaller.

I have not been able to associate this bat with any of the described forms in South America. The name *Atalapha frantzii* Peters should apparently now stand as *Lasiurus borealis frantzii* (Peters). Mr. Miller has concurred in this conclusion.

—E. A. Goldman.